Mapline

A quarterly newsletter published by
The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography
at The Newberry Library

Number 25 March 1982

David Bosse, *Editor*

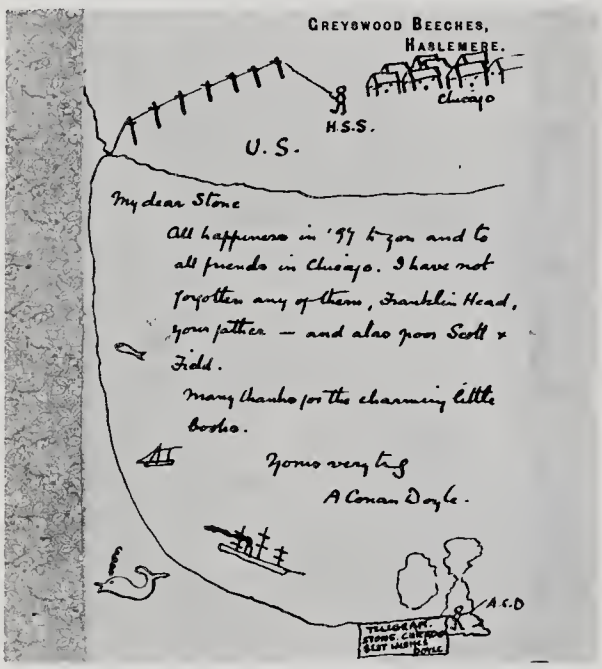
Sherlock Holmes and Maps

Cartographic thought is a significant but low-key thematic element in Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories. Mapping, although seldom mentioned, is not implemented for decorative effect as much as it symbolizes Sherlock Holmes' mental mastery of environment, his almost mystic intellectual superiority over the locale of crime.

Holmes is not intellectually fogbound by the darkness that limits the criminal mind. While the four conspirators in *The Sign of the Four* need four actual plans to remember the location of their stolen treasure, Holmes displays a cartographic memory. His map of London is in his head; it is a mental map of the city. When Holmes, Watson, and Mary Morstan, in *The Sign of the Four,* are "driving to an unknown place, on an unknown errand, ...what with our pace, the fog, and ...limited knowledge of London," Watson looses his bearings, and knows "nothing save that we seem to be going a very long way." Holmes, however, accurately pinpoints the location of Thaddeus Sholto's exotic home after a rapid-fire enumeration of streets on the supposedly secret route.

Holmes' wonderful mental overview works to create London's strong atmospheric presence in the narratives. It also contrasts with Professor Moriarity's dark vision of London. Holmes appears to conceptualize the city in cartographic order and truth, with loving attention to detail, as if from above. He guards London while Moriarity spins spider-like plots in the depths. One creates an urban plan for good, the other a huge web—suggestive of a perverted map—for evil.

Arthur Conan Doyle was apparently sensitive to mapping and cartographic conceptualization. He



From the Stone & Kimball Collection, The Newberry Library. Photo by F. Peter Weil.

decorated a letter he wrote in 189-, to Herbert S. Stone, a partner of the Chicago publishing firm of Stone and Kimball, with an epistolary sketch map dramatising his proposed trip from London to Chicago (Fig. 1). Born into a family of well-known artists, Doyle seems to have had a habit of illustrating his

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The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography Director: **David Buisseret**

The Center was founded in 1972 at The Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information is available on request.

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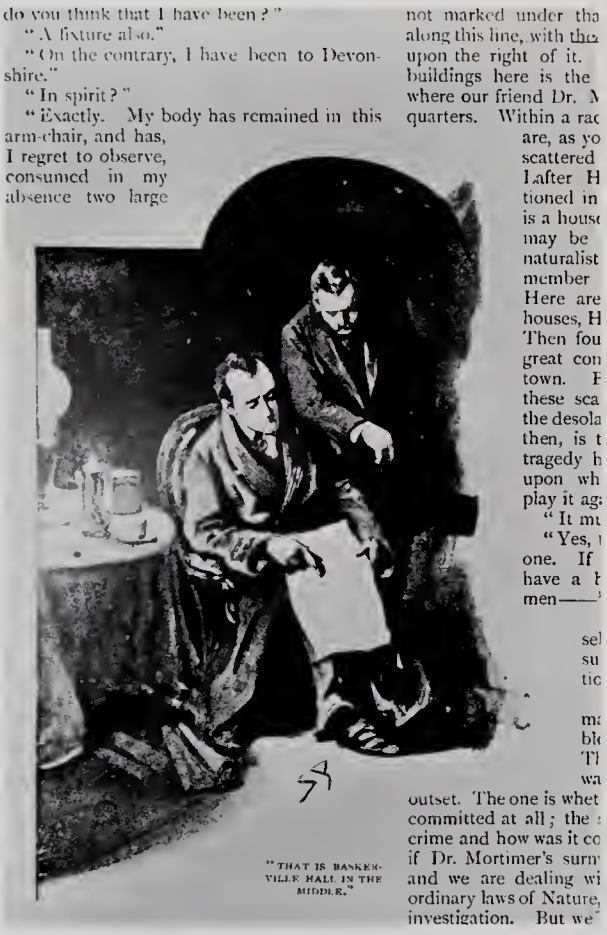

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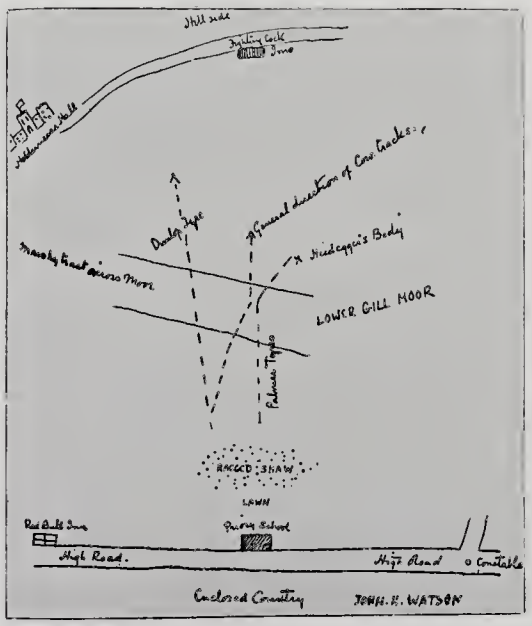

From the Strand Magazine. Photo by F. Peter Weil.

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Lomonosov's Big Globe, or Was It?

The publication of my article, "Lomonosov's Big Globe," in the September 1981 issue of *Mapline* (Number 23) stimulated some interesting and revealing responses. In turn, these responses spurred me on to do further research about the globe. What follows is the result.

It seems that the story of the globe as I presented it was essentially correct, but only as far as the globe's life in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union was concerned. But its existence predates the Russian origins of 1748-1754. I am especially thankful to Professor George Kish of the University of Michigan and Professor Ernst Schlee of Schleswig in the Federal Republic of Germany for directing my research toward the globe's actual creation and early years.

The globe was constructed in 1650-1664 by Adam Olschlager (Olearius) and Andreas Busch under commission from Duke Friedrich III of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorf. It came to be known as the Gottorf (Gottorp) globe because it was first shown in the royal residence of the Duke, Gottorf Castle, near the city of Schleswig where it was built. According to an article by Ermanno Armao, an Italian diplomat who also had seen the Coronelli globes, in *Der Globusfreund* in 1953 (vol. 2, pp. 11-15), the globe was about 10½ feet in diameter and made of thin, engraved copper plates over a wooden framework. The outer surface was terrestrial and the inner celestial. A water-driven clockwork rotated the globe on its axis once every twenty-four hours. At the center of the globe was a small brass sphere, representing the earth (my thanks to Professor Kish for this reference citation).

After the Russian-Danish victory over Sweden and its German ally Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorf in the Great Northern War (1700-1721), Tzar Peter the Great had the globe brought to St. Petersburg to the Kunstkammer. It had been a gift to Peter from Duke Christian August, Regent of the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorf. The globe was not created by the Lomonosov team in 1748-1754 as reported in my original article, but probably only refurbished and updated then. It was built almost a century earlier in northern Germany and should rightfully be called the Gottorf-Lomonosov globe.

My research for the original article was done principally in the Lomonosov Museum in Leningrad in Russian and Soviet sources. None of them even hinted at the globe's German origins, but given the historic Russian-Soviet-German rivalry, I suppose, this deception should not be surprising. In a letter to me dated November 16, 1981, Professor Schlee points out that this has been going on for some time, and that the staff at the Lomonosov Museum is well aware of the globe's early history, but reluctant to reveal it.

Dennis Reinhartz
University of Texas, Arlington

Calendar

March
Michigan Map Society. Speaker: Dr. Thomas Cross. Topic: New England whaling maps. Date and place to be announced.

18 March
Chicago Map Society, Newberry Library. Speaker: Theodore N. Foss. Topic: Chinese mapping.

April
New York Map Society. Speaker: Alice Hudson. Topic: "The Mapping of Chelsea". Date and place to be announced.

May
New York Map Society. Speaker: Dr. John O'Brien. Topic: "The Mapping of China". Date and place to be announced.

June
New York Map Society. Speaker: Howard Welsh. Topic: "New York in Maps". Date and place to be announced.

5-10 June
Special Libraries Association annual conference, Detroit, MI. Geography and Map Division program arranged by James Minton, SLA G&M Program Planner, 825 Hatcher Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

6 June
International Map Collectors' Society map fair and exhibition, London. (Yasha Beresiner, Box 70, London N33QQ, England.)

10-17 July
American Library Association annual conference, Philadelphia, PA. Map and Geography Round Table program arranged by Charles Seavey, Gov. Pubs. and Maps Dept., Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

29 July-4 August
11th. International Cartographic Conference, Palace of Culture and Science, Warsaw, Poland. (Barbara Petchenik, 827 Pine, Winnetka, IL 60093.)

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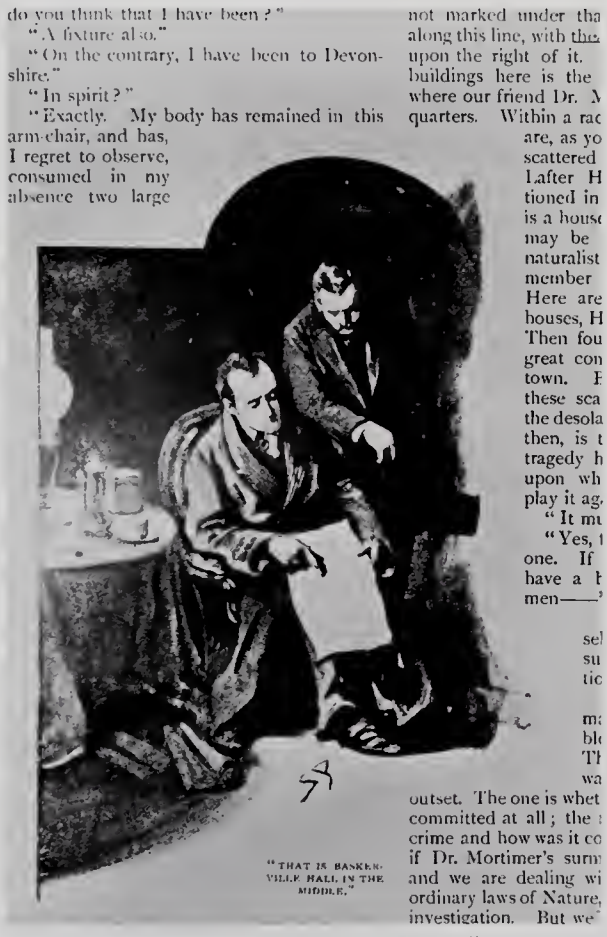
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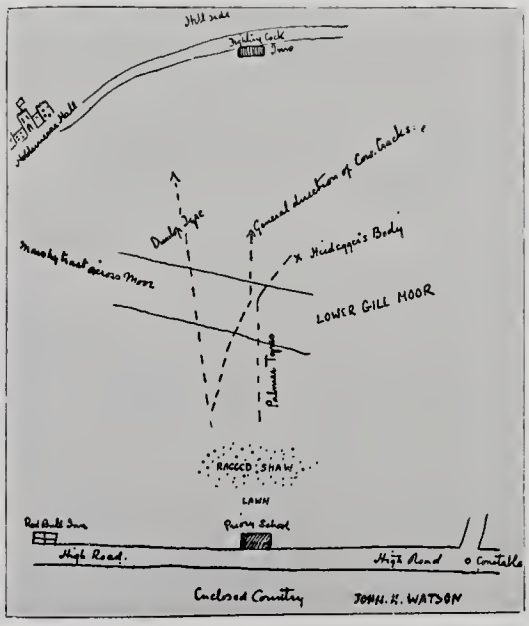

From the Strand Magazine. Photo by F. Peter Weil.

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Holmes' cartographic mind has a parallel in Rudyard Kipling's Kim, who also has a cartographic memory with mystic tones. Colonel Creighton of the Survey of India recruits Kim as a spy, instructing him in part: "and thou must learn how to make pictures of roads and mountains and rivers—to carry these pictures in thy eye." Both Kim and Sherlock are masters of their environments at least partly through cartographic thought. Maps for them are not static designs on paper but patterns of imaginative thinking in perceiving the world and "playing the game," a feeling masterfully conveyed by the interplay of Arthur Conan Doyle's tales with Sidney Paget's illustrations.

J.W. Scheideman

Warren Scheideman teaches and writes in the field of Edwardian literature. He was recently awarded membership in the Baker Street Irregulars.

Acquisitions

The National Library of Australia has recently announced the acquisition of an important item in the history of the mapping of New South Wales. John Oxley's *Chart of Part of the Interior of New South Wales,* published by Aaron Arrowsmith, June 4th, 1825, is believed to be the first copy of that map in the possession of an Australian public institution. The map is described by Tooley in vol. 44 of the *Map Collectors' Circle.* The uniqueness of the National Library's copy is due to pencilled annotations by the explorer, Allan Cunningham. The notes indicate the route of his 1827 expedition, as well as the location of daily camps, comments on the landscape, and comparisons of discrepancies in longitude between Oxley's map and Cunningham's observations.

The National Library of Scotland has purchased 45 atlases from the Scottish Geographical Society at a cost of £64,596. Of particular note is a copy of the world's first great atlas, Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum.* The atlas was presented to William Camden, the English historian and antiquary, and bears the cartographer's autograph inscription. Numerous maps have been inserted into the atlas, probably by Camden himself.

International Directory of Current Research in the History of Cartography and Carto-Bibliography

The *Third Issue* of the biannual *Directory* was published in May 1981 and includes entries from scholars in 33 countries in all parts of the world. Copies are available for £3 (U.S. $7.00) post paid from Professor E.M.J. Campbell, Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet St., London WCI 7HX. Checks should be made payable to the History of Cartography Publications Society.

Entries are now being sought for inclusion in the *Fourth Issue* of the *Directory* to be published in August 1983. Everyone actively carrying out research in the history of cartography or cartobibliography is invited to have an entry. Forms may be obtained from Professor Campbell.

Display of British Ordnance Survey Arouses Interest

By comparison with other reference libraries, the general map collection (i.e., non-West Australian) of the State Reference Library in Perth, Western Australia is small but popular. It is a general policy to promote items in the library to potential users. When the library acquired copies of *A History of the Ordnance Survey,* edited by W.A. Seymour, and *Report of the Ordnance Survey Review Committee, July 1979,* it was felt that to reach the largest number of patrons an exhibit would be most effective.

A display was mounted around these two items showing examples of Ordnance Survey mapping from 1791 to the present, reports on early surveys made to the Royal Society and Royal Geographical Society, and monographs and mathematical publications of the Ordnance Survey. Some items of surveying equipment were borrowed from the Western Australia Museum and included. The exhibit ran from late September to early December, 1981. To coincide with this, the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History mounted a small display of current maps produced by the Western Australia Department of Lands and Surveys. Local newspaper response to a media release was very favorable and considerable interest was aroused, not least from genealogical researchers.

William Lamble
Map Librarian
State Reference Library, Perth

Photo by Dot Barnett.

Michigan Mapping

Leroy Barnett, reference archivist for the State of Michigan, has prepared two maps depicting land grant and settlement patterns. The following is quoted from recent letters from Mr. Barnett describing the project.

The first map I worked on, showing land grants in Michigan, took two years to complete *[Part of this map is reproduced above—Ed.]* It depicts, within a quarter-section of accuracy, property that was given away by state and/or federal governments for private claims, roads, railroads, canals, primary schools, internal improvements, salt springs, swamps, land grant colleges, the University of Michigan, Indians, homesteads, military bounty, and scrip. The very small grants—such as those to individuals, communal societies, churches, and communities—are not shown.

The second map I prepared was designed to show the progression of "settlement" or land acquisition across the state. This was done by consulting the tract books which listed the original buyers for all land in Michigan. The dates of these transactions for each section were averaged, and then assigned to one of 17 time categories that I had established at five-year intervals from 1815 to 1900. Since each category had a particular color associated with it, I simply applied the appropriate hue to the 55,000 sections in our state. The resulting patterns show some interesting facts about the movement of the Michigan frontier and the transfer of property from public to private ownership.

My latest project, now underway, will depict the progression of the federal surveys across Michigan. Furthermore, I hope to indicate the various tracts of land that were assigned to particular individuals. For example, my map will reveal which areas were surveyed by Burt, Houghton, Higgins, Lyons, etc. A special key will show which lands had to be resurveyed, and by whom. All of this data comes from the original surveyors' plats and the corrected sheets.

I had toyed with the idea of mapping original land buyers by state of residence, to see if there were aggregations of settlers from New York, Ohio, etc. Unfortunately, it looks as if there is insufficient data for such an undertaking.

Publications

Caert-Thresoor, Tijdschrift voor de Historische Kartografie. Alphen aan den Rijn, Netherlands: Canaletto-Reprodukties, P.O. Box 68, 2400 VB, 1982- (Dfl. 15 per year).

The history of cartography in the Netherlands is the subject of this new quarterly journal. Articles (apparently in Dutch with an English abstract), reviews and editorials will concentrate on Dutch mapping prior to 1850.

Map of Australia Compiled from the Nautical Surveys Made by Order of the Admiralty, by James Wyld / Australian Map Curators Circle, 9 Fortune St., Box Hill, Victoria, 3129, Australia, 1981. (A $50.00 from the Business Manager).

Facsimile reproduction of the ca. 1851 map by James Wyld the younger, being a revision of his father's copperplate engraving first published in 1833. The map is in full color and measures 56x80cm. This is a limited edition of 250 copies.

Mapping History / L'Histoire par les Cartes. Toronto: *Historical Atlas of Canada,* Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto, Toronto, M5S 1A1, Canada.

The journal of the Historical Atlas of Canada *is concerned with the history, methods, and creation of historical atlases. The purpose of the journal is to publish information about the* HAC *project, along with articles and reviews related to the field. It appears "at least once a year" and may be obtained free of charge.*

Monmonier, Mark S. "Private-Sector Mapping of Pennsylvania: A Selective Cartographic History for 1870 to 1974." *Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science* No. 55 (1981): 69-74.

Choosing the years 1870-74, 1920-24, and 1970-74, Monmonier examines the trend in mapping from county and state atlases to fire insurance maps, and finally to highway and street maps. Tendencies in scale and place of publication are also given attention.

Nicholson, N.L. and L.M. Sebert. *The Maps of Canada: A Guide to Official Canadian Maps, Charts, Atlases and Gazetteers.* Kent, Eng.: Dawson; Hamden, CT.: Shoe String Press, 1981. ($32.50, The Shoe String Press, 995 Sherman Ave., Hamden, CT. 06514).

A comprehensive survey of official map and chart series, focusing upon topographical mapping. The history of mapping in Canada is detailed, along with the precursors of large map series: county maps and atlases, military mapping, and surveys in the Canadian Rockies. There is also a discussion of geographical names. Many useful appendices and charts are included.

Sellers, John R. and Van Ee, Patricia Molen. *Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789: A Guide to the Collections in the Library of Congress.* Washington: Library of Congress, 1981. (Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402)

The last of a series of guides to LC's collections projected during the American Revolution Bicentennial, this is a catalogue of 2,154 manuscript and printed maps in the Library's Geography and Map Division. Although marred by an unclear arrangement of entries within the broad geographical categories and by its incomplete coverage of maps in books, this guide will certainly be used and cited for a long time and is a welcome key to the vast collections of maps and atlases in the Division.

Alas, Poor Cuba, We Loved You Well!

This interesting map is to be found as an inset on the 'system map' offered by a certain airline to its passengers. We can only hope that its flight deck is better supplied...

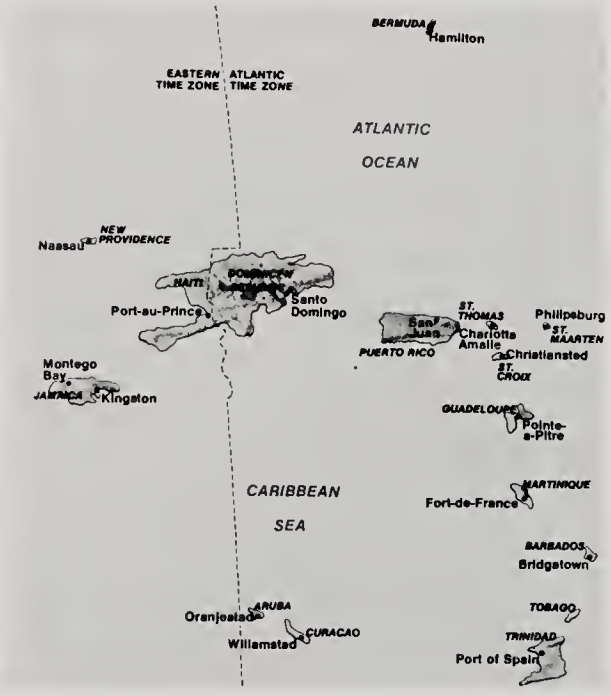

Photo by F. Peter Weil.